

McKay family fonds. – MG 385- 1878-1984, predominant ca. 1878-1917 – 32 cm of textual records and graphic material (376 photographs, 319 negatives, 2 postcards and 16 drawings). – 2 wooden document boxes.

The McKay family was prominent family in the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan. The extended family were involved in business, education, church and political life.

Annie Maude (“Nan”) McKay was born in 1892 at Fort a la Corne, Northwest Territories, the daughter of a Hudson Bay Company employee, Angus McKay. She completed high school in Prince Albert where she won a scholarship to the University of Saskatchewan. At the U of S McKay took an honours course in English and French and was active in student affairs, serving on the student council and the executives of the YWCA, Penta Kai Deka and was the staff artist of the *Sheaf*. McKay was a member of the U of S women’s ice hockey team in 1915 and played hockey on University-affiliated teams until well into the 1920s. In the ’flu epidemic of 1918 she worked as a volunteer nurse (her name is painted on the stairwell in the College Building) and was chosen to unveil the plaque commemorating the undergraduate student who died in the epidemic. When she graduated in 1915 McKay was hired as assistant librarian of the University Library, and would become the first secretary-treasurer of the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association (established in 1917). McKay worked at the Library until her retirement in 1959.

Angus McKay, the son of William and Mary was born at Fort Pelly in December, 1858. Educated at St. John's College, Winnipeg, he joined the Hudson's Bay Company as an apprentice clerk at Fort Carlton in 1877 and remained there until 1882 when he was transferred to Prince Albert. In 1885 he was sent to Fort Pitt to help re-establish it after the post had been plundered by Indians during the North West Rebellion. Promoted to clerk-in-charge, he operated Fort a la Corne, 1889-1899; Green Lake 1899-1907; Ile-A-La-Crosse 1907-1909 and was transferred to La Ronge in 1909. He was given the title 'Post Manager' in 1913 and finally retired from La Ronge in 1921 after 44 years service. He also served as a Justice of the Peace. He died in 1952.

The McKay family fonds contains material created and assembled primarily by Angus McKay and his daughter Nan McKay. The photographs include family members as well as HBC staff; the University of Saskatchewan campus during Nan McKay’s time as a student; and a variety of scenes and people in Northern Saskatchewan, documenting Angus McKay’s work and family life at various posting, and including a photo identified as a treaty party in La Ronge. The textual material accumulated by Angus McKay includes business, family and personal correspondence, including correspondence relating to his award of scrip, receipts, financial accounts, price lists, tax assessments, etc. There is also material relating to the McKay family tree; printed reminiscences (1935) of the Riel Rebellion of 1885; notes and sketches for a talk by Nan McKay about bird watching.

Some photographs have been scanned, available identification is transcribed (numbers refer to image file name):

Box 1

Scanned photographs. – 33 photos, one ink drawing, cd copy of scanned images. – 1900-1952; nd.

Scenes and people in northern Saskatchewan. Numbered 1-34.

Available detail:

2. “Dad & Maff(?) at Isle a la Crosse with Percy beside him”

8. “Angus McKay”

13. “Treaty Party leaving(?) Ile a la Crosse”

31. “Percy?”

33:

Taken about 1900: Green Lake

5th back row: Fortesque McKay eldest son of Angus McKay

[Front row] Angus McKay, Nell McKay, Mary Traill (teacher, niece of Angus), daughter Nan, Mrs. Angus McKay, Tommy Clarke with Marion McKay.

Back row: Paul Gregaud (HBC), Miller (a transient), Bird (?), NWMP, Louis Morin (freighter for HBC) and Forty McKay

34:

May 1952, Prince Albert 615 River Street East

This picture was taken at Granddad Angus McKay’s funeral. It must have been taken by Jean Totty or Forty’s wife Georgie, Nan’s sister-in-law.

Back row:

Marion McKay, niece, Percy’s daughter; Charles Angus Percival McKay (Percy or Cap), Nan’s youngest full brother; Mrs. Barbara Morrow, nee Traill, cousin; Robin Coleman, Helen’s husband; Bill McCloy, cousin; Elsie Marian McKay, Nan’s sister and companion caregiver, Joseph Fortescue (Forty) McKay, her eldest brother; Maud Maria (Yummie) McCloy, nee Traill, cousin; Fred Skerratt, Marjorie’s husband; Bill Totty, Katie’s husband; Margaret McKay, Nan’s stepmother (almost cut off in the picture);

Second row:

Nan [McKay]; Bevan Skerratt, nephew; Catharine Parr (Katie) Totty, nee Traill, cousin; Jessie McKay, nee Traill, Percy’s wife

Loose photographs. –

Folder 1

Envelope 1. 9 photos; 2 coupons; 1 poem about Nan McKay; 20 negs. – ca 1913; nd.

Interior and exterior shots of Northern Saskatchewan and campus.

Envelope 2. – 15 photos; 1 postcard; two Alpine Canada tags. – ca 1914-1937.

Interior and exterior shots and one postcard of soldiers.

Envelope 3. – ca 1915. - 22 photos, 1 postcard and a greeting card of a baby with a pipe.

Interior and exterior shots including the Murray family at “Camp Kilkare”, Dexter Brothers, Rocky Mountains, U of S Campus and S.S. Olympic.

Envelope 4. – nd. - 21 photos.

Interior and exterior shots including the U of S Campus and Rocky Mountains.

Envelope 5. – nd. - 27 photos.

Interior and exterior shots including the U of S Campus and Rocky Mountains.

Folder 2

Envelope 6. – 1925. - 8 photos; 1 neg.

Interior and exterior shots. One of the buildings has the sign J.E. McKay Barrister and Solicitor.

Envelope 7. – nd. - 4 photos; 73 negs.

Interior and exterior shots including campus, Hazel, a canoe with a sail.

Envelope 8. – ca 1915, nd. - 2 photos.

Two rivers – South Saskatchewan just west of the Saskatoon CP bridge and an unknown river with logs.

Envelope 9. – ca 1917. - 36 photos; 1 post card.

Interior and exterior shots of northern Saskatchewan and campus . Post card from to N. McKay from G. Glover.

Envelope 10 . – ca 1917. - 12 photos; 53 negs.

Interior and exterior shots of northern Saskatchewan and an urban environment. .

Envelope 11. – ca 1917. – 134 negs..

Interior and exterior shots of northern Saskatchewan, golfing and campus .

Envelope 12. – nd. – 59 colour negs..

Interior and exterior shots.

McKay family tree etc. – 1944, 1984.

Cartoon, family tree and Christmas letter.

Miles Macdonell's Journal. – nd. - 1 photograph; 1 post card; 18 file cards; 15 sketches.

Notes for a talk by N. McKay re bird watching, sketches of birds, a post card of a prairie scene, a photo of a mountain and a sketch of a dog.

Family correspondence. – 1897-1916.

Reminiscences of the Riel Rebellion of 1885. – 1935.

Reprinted from the Prince Albert Daily Harold.

Greystone. - 1931.

Box 2 (Wood box 1. – Folder 3).

Photograph album. – [1914-1915], 1974. - 183 photos, 2 clippings.

Campus (women's hockey, tennis, fancy dress, buildings, groups) Northern Saskatchewan, Saskatoon river bank, Better Farming Train and military images. Two clippings of letters to the editors by J.F. McKay.

Private Papers of Mr Angus McKay. – ca. 1878-1952, predominant ca. 1879-1911.

Originally housed in two wooden boxes. Primarily personal and work transaction related records, relating to McKay's roles as both HBC agent and postmaster. There is also family and other personal correspondence, particularly from his brother James while he at St. John's College in Winnipeg, ca. 1878-1882 (filed separately), and a few clippings. The file contains receipts, game and fishing regulations, financial accounts, correspondence (customers, various levels of government, relating to land sales, etc.), family correspondence, fur pricing and other price lists (including *W.F. Sheard's Classified Quotations of Raw Furs and Skins*, 1896-1897 and a price list from the New York Fur Exporting Co., 1895-1896), assessment notices, timeline for HBC/Selkirk settlement, HBC employment contract, record of employment, photos, circulars including from St. John's College (Winnipeg) and from Philip Turner - candidate for Cumberland (Legislative Assembly, Northwest Territories), newspaper and magazine subscription receipts, etc. Items of note include letters from the Department of the Interior, 1886-1887, relating to taking scrip or accepting a land warrant (filed separately); appointments as Justice of the Peace; telegram from John Diefenbaker after death of Angus McKay (1952); McKay's record of service from the HBC, covering 1877-1905; McKay's appointment as postmaster in Fort Pitt, 1886

"Private Papers Mr Angus McKay Hudson's Bay Company Saskatchewan, NWT". - 1878-1911.
From wood box 1. - Folders 1-5.

"Private Papers Mr Angus McKay Hudson's Bay Company Carlton Saskatchewan, NWT". - 1879-1952.

From wood box 2. - Folders 1-2.

From wood box 2. - Correspondence with James

From wood box 2. - Correspondence re scrip. - 1886-1887

After initially electing to accept a land warrant, McKay was issued Military Bounty Scrip Note. 4796. Includes handwritten letters from the Department of Interior.

From wood box 2. - 3 photographs

Portrait of Justice James McKay, Supreme Court (by Steele & Wing's, Winnipeg); and two unidentified photographs

Memoirs of trip from Fort Garry to Carlton, June 1877.

One-page transcript

Wood box 1.

Box 3

Wood box 2